

# City of Brooklyn E~Newsletter

February 2011

Volume 1, Issue 2



**Richard H. Balbier, Mayor**



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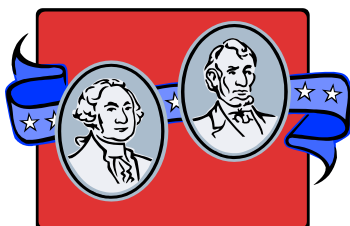
7619 Memphis Ave

Brooklyn, Ohio 44144



Last Month Mayor Balbier and Council President Kathleen Pucci had the opportunity to present a holiday card to top officials at American Greetings. The giant card was made by Senator Sherrod Brown's office and was signed by Brooklyn residents at various community events over the holidays. Residents wrote messages on the importance of American Greetings to our community, encouraging them to stay where they have been for over 50 years—right here in Brooklyn.

*Mayor Balbier and President Pucci met with Chief Executive Officer Zev Weiss and Senior Vice President Catherine Kilbane who expressed their appreciation for the sentiments from Brooklyn residents and stated that they always appreciate receiving a greeting card.*



Monday, February 21 is President's Day. City Buildings will be closed. The ice rink will be open for the 5:30pm and the 8:00pm Ohio High School Athletic Association Sectional Hockey Games ONLY!



## ***Council's Corner***

### ***by Kathleen Pucci***

### ***2011 Organizational Meeting***

On January 3, 2011 Brooklyn City Council conducted their annual Organizational Meeting which is mandated by our charter. The purpose of the organizational meeting is to elect officers, make committee assignments, and discuss possible changes to the Rules of Council.

The results are as follows:

**President:** Kathleen Pucci

**President Pro-Tem:** Joe Magrey

#### **Standing Committees**

Finance:	Tony DeMarco (Chair)	Kathleen Pucci	Joe Magrey
Public Works:	Joe Magrey (Chair)	Kathleen Pucci	John Patta
Safety & Environ.	Tony DeMarco (Chair)	Colleen Gallagher	Tom Murphy

#### **Representatives**

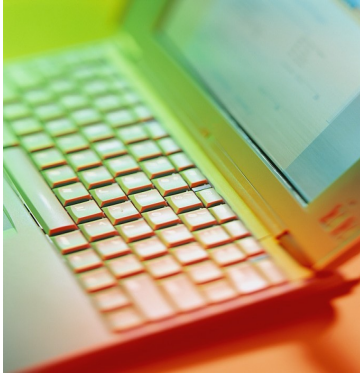
Planning Commission:	John Patta	Recreation Board	Kevin Tanski
Economic Development:	Kathleen Pucci	Domestic Violence	Colleen Gallagher
Legislative Update	Colleen Gallagher	Juvenile Diversion	Colleen Gallagher
Fair Housing:	John Patta	School Board Liaison	Tom Murphy
Volunteer Fire Dependents Board (2):	Tony DeMarco	Kevin Tanski	

**City Council meetings will continue at 7:00 pm on the second and fourth Mondays of the month September through June, with special meetings scheduled as necessary. The Finance Committee has a standard meeting time of 6:30 pm prior to each regular council meeting. The committee will change the meeting time if more time is necessary to accommodate the agenda. Please check the city website or call City Hall to confirm.**

Council also agreed to the following changes in the Rules of Council:

- The "MEETINGS" section will be amended to specify that the Organizational Meeting will be conducted on the first Monday in January at a time to be determined.
- The public session in the beginning of the meeting will be increased from three to five minutes, thus allowing residents more time to speak.
- Under Rule 14, "Order of Business", we will once again add another opportunity for the public to speak. This will be limited to legislative items on the agenda with a three minute time limit.
- We will initiate a new procedure on how items are placed on the council agenda. This will allow ample time to gather all necessary information and insure sufficient time for a thorough internal review.
- In our efforts to improve transparency and share more information with our residents the legislation on our agenda will be posted on the city website ([www.brooklynohio.gov](http://www.brooklynohio.gov)) and available for review at the reception desk at City Hall the Friday prior to the council meeting.

## Senior Community Center News...



### ***Computer Classes at the Senior Community Center.***

The Internet for Beginners 1&2—Searching the Internet will provide hands on experience. The first class will explain the basics of search engines and browsers. You will learn how to connect to the Internet and how to navigate your way around the World Wide Web. The second class will provide time for review and practice. You will also learn how to find web sites more quickly. The second class will discuss browsers in more detail, show you how to download programs, search more effectively, and avoid viruses. **Cost \$39.00. Class Dates: February 10 & 17, 2011 Time 10:00am—Noon.**

E-Mail with Yahoo Mail 1 & 2 - This class will provide hands on experience while you learn the basics of email, with Yahoo's e-mail program. Find out what Yahoo mail is and how to set up your personal account. Learn how to read, write, send and reply to messages. The second class will provide time for review and practice. You will learn how to create an address book, adding attachments and more. **Cost \$39.00. Class Dates: February 24 and March 3, 2011. Time 10:00am-Noon.**

### **AARP TAX ASSISTANCE**

***AARP will be providing free income tax assistance on Mondays and Wednesdays. Starting, Wednesday, February 2nd. Contact the Senior Center at 216-635-4222 to schedule your appointment. Taxpayers must bring in last year's return, a copy of the Social Security card must be shown for all dependents, bring in related income tax forms including Social Security, a photo I.D. for all dependents, all stock information purchase and/or sale. There is no age restriction and AARP membership is not required.***



### Weight Watcher Meetings

Weight Watcher meetings are held at the Brooklyn Community Senior Center on Monday evenings. Registration and weigh-in begins 1/2 hour prior to the start of the 6pm meeting. Please use back entrance.

## Building and Service Department News...



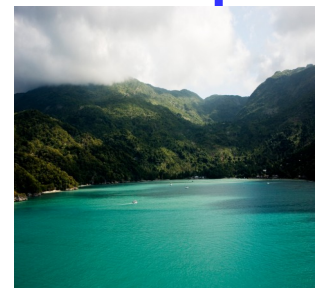
**Reminder!** The City of Brooklyn, in cooperation with the Cuyahoga County Sanitary Engineers Office has a program to assist Brooklyn residents who have water backing up in their basements, gurgling toilets, or slow drains. If this occurs, please contact the City of Brooklyn Service Department at 216-351-2133. If this occurs after normal business hours, you may contact police dispatch at their non-emergency number, 216-749-1234 for assistance. **There is no fee for this service to the City of Brooklyn residents and businesses.**

### Seven Simple Steps to Clean Water

*Remember, it all drains to Lake Erie*

*Our Water. Our Future. Ours to Protect*

1. No Dumping in the Storm Drain
2. Fertilize Sparingly and Caringly
3. Properly Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste
4. Clean Up After Your Pet
5. Practice Good Car Care
6. Landscape with Native Plants
7. Conserve Water



### Rain Garden Kits

*Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District is selling Rain Garden Kits*

*Garden Kits come ready to plant! Each Garden Kit contains 38 native plants of 10-12 species grown in a deep-cell tray. Kits are grown locally at Ohio Prairie Nursery. Garden Kits available: Rain Garden (Sun) - Rain Garden (Shade) - Hummingbird/Butterfly - \$105 each. Please contact the Cuyahoga SWCD for more information about how to purchase a kit. 216-524-6580, ext 22 or [www.cuyahogawcd.org](http://www.cuyahogawcd.org).*

## Friends of Big Creek News...

### *Calling All Volunteers!*

#### **Bring your sweetie and “SNAP” some porcelain berry vines on February 13th!**

Our invasive plant removal project is open to volunteers who would like to participate. We will be manually pulling porcelain berry vines at Brookside Reservation so that native plants can have a better chance to bloom come spring. The area is located along a butterfly monitoring path, and native plants help support our important pollinators. Bring gloves and dress for the weather. The event will be cancelled in case of extreme weather. To keep you cozy, complimentary HOT chocolate, HOT chili and HOT dogs will be served, thanks to members of Friends of Big Creek!

**Sunday, February 13, 2011 from Noon-2:00pm**

Meet at the Brookside Valley Event Center Site located on John Nagy Boulevard, off the Ridge Road entrance of Brookside Reservation, Cleveland. **Please RSVP to Gayle Albers, Conservation Coordinator 216-635-2526 or [gla@clevelandmetroparks.com](mailto:gla@clevelandmetroparks.com)**



## Fire Department News...

### **Free Safety Tips for Brooklyn Residents from the Fire Department**

Please call the Fire Department at 216-749-1212 during regular business hours to schedule a free home safety inspection. If you need a smoke detector mounted and/ or your detector is over 10 years old, or not working, we would be happy to come to your home and replace your detector and/or provide you with a free smoke detector.



## Brooklyn Historical Society Did You Know...

**Did You Know???** Brooklyn had two airports? The Brooklyn Airport was located on the site of the former Tops Supermarket at Ridge Park Square and Mather Airport occupied the grounds where Brookridge School is located.

**Did You Know???** Ridge Road was called “Shunpike” around the turn of the century. Pearl Road was a toll road and to avoid paying the fee, travelers used Memphis Avenue to reach Ridge Road, which was a wooden plank road without a toll. They were shunning the pike, thus the name “Shunpike”

**Did You Know???** When the original “Brooklyn Township” was founded in 1818, it’s boundaries were Lake Erie to the north, Brookpark Road to the south, Cuyahoga River (crooked river) to the east and West 117th to the west. Much of the area was annexed by the City of Cleveland and our little 4 1/2 square miles is what is left. It became Brooklyn Village in 1927 and the City of Brooklyn in 1950.



## Come Join Us!

The Brooklyn Recreation Center - 7600 Memphis Avenue - is hosting an Open House and Learn-to-Skate registration day on Sunday, February 27th

Learn-To-Skate Registration: 11:00am-2:00pm

Public Skate Session: 2:30pm-4:00pm

- Skaters who register for the LTS class will receive a ticket for free admission to the public skate session. Regular skate rental fees apply.

Skating is a GREAT way for kids and adults to get exercise, meet new friends and learn about goal-setting, performing and competing! Come learn about our program and get some free stuff! For more information visit: [brooklynskating.com](http://brooklynskating.com). Residents \$25.00; Non-Residents \$40.00. USFS Fee \$11.00 One time charge from September 1, 2010—August 31, 2011

**Recreation Center News...****Greater Cleveland High School Hockey Baron Cup Game Schedule  
Tournament will be held at the John M. Coyne Recreation Center**

Ticket Prices - Adults & Students Grade 7-12 - \$6.00

School Children thru Grade 6 & Seniors - \$3.00

***Monday, February 7 - Thursday, February 10***

Game Times 4:30pm; 6:30pm; 8:30pm

***Friday, February 11***

Game Times 5:30pm; 8:00pm

***Saturday, February 12***

Game Times 1:00pm; 3:00pm; 5:30pm; 8:00pm

***Sunday, February 13***

1:00pm Baron Cup III Championship

3:00pm Baron Cup II Championship

5:30pm Baron Cup I Championship



## Recreation Center News...

### *Ohio High School Athletic Association*

#### *Sectional & District Tournament Hockey Games*

*All Admissions \$7.00*

#### *Tournament held at the John M. Coyne Recreation Center*

<b>Monday</b>	<b>February 14, 2011</b>	<b>5:30 p.m. Game</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>February 14, 2011</b>	<b>8:00 p.m. Game</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>February 15, 2011</b>	<b>5:30 p.m. Game</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>February 15, 2011</b>	<b>8:00 p.m. Game</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>February 16, 2011</b>	<b>5:30 p.m. Game</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>February 16, 2011</b>	<b>8:00 p.m. Game</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>February 17, 2011</b>	<b>5:30 p.m. Game</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>February 17, 2011</b>	<b>8:00 p.m. Game</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>February 19, 2011</b>	<b>Noon Game</b>
		<b>3:00 p.m. Game</b>
		<b>6:00 p.m. Game</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>February 21, 2011</b>	<b>5:30 p.m. Game</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>February 21, 2011</b>	<b>8:00 p.m. Game</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>February 22, 2011</b>	<b>6:00 p.m. Game</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>February 23, 2011</b>	<b>6:00 p.m. Game</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>February 24, 2011</b>	<b>6:00 p.m. Game</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>February 26, 2011</b>	<b>Noon Game</b>
		<b>3:00 p.m. Game</b>
		<b>6:00 p.m. Game</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>March 1, 2011</b>	<b>7:00 p.m. Game</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>March 2, 2011</b>	<b>7:00 p.m. Game</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>March 5, 2011</b>	<b>6:00 p.m. Game</b>

*February 21, 2011 President's Day, Recreation Facilities Closed*

*The rink will be open for the 5:30 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. Ohio High School Athletic Association Sectional Hockey Games Only.*



## Current Events...

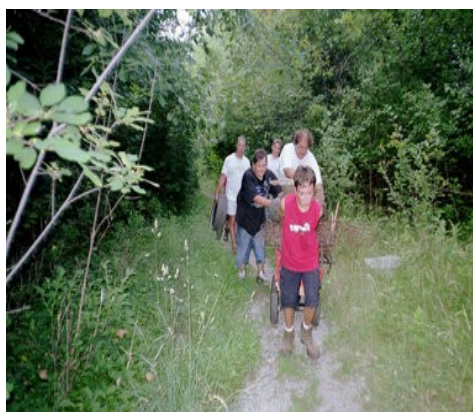


Photo from Parma Sun News

Congratulations to Boy Scout Troop 319 on their two recent William T. Hornaday Unit Awards. This award was created to recognize significant contributions to conservation and the environment. The troop cleaned the wooded area behind the Fire Station and recycled 391 pounds of scrap metal. Troop 319 is the 33rd unit ever to receive two Hornaday Awards.



## Brooklyn Relay for Life Fundraiser

Support Your Community in the Fight Against Cancer

Please Join Us for Fun, Food and Entertainment!

Sunday, February 20th 5:00-8:00pm at the

Ridge Manor Party Center

\$20 per person in advance/\$25 at the door

Door Prizes, 50/50, Chinese Raffles

Contact Sharon Kovach 216-372-9278 or

[shortykovach@aol.com](mailto:shortykovach@aol.com)

# Safeguard Your Identity During Tax Season

It's time to start preparing your important tax documents, documents that are also very valuable to an identity thief. Here are a few tips to keep your information safe during the busy tax season.

- *Don't keep tax documents lying around. For an identity thief, finding a brief case full of tax documents covered in Social Security numbers, earnings, addresses, etc, is a dream come true! If you take them somewhere, like to your accountant's office, don't leave them in your car. Even in your house, keep them in a locked box or hidden location.*
- *Guard your mail and mailbox. Incoming and outgoing tax documents like W2's and 1099's contain vital identity information. If you don't already have a locking mailbox, we recommend looking into one.*
- *Shield your SSN. Tax documents contain SSN's and require them in order to file with the IRS. Be sure to keep them safe both out in the open and on your computer after handling your taxes this year. If your computer is hacked and you have documents with important tax information, they are the perfect catch for any identity thief.*
- *Deal directly with the IRS. If you have questions or concerns filing this year, be sure you address them directly to a government official within the IRS. If you notice anything suspicious this tax year and haven't had any issues previously with identity theft and the IRS, contact the IRS Protection Specialized Unit, toll-free 1-800-908-4490 for guidance.*



EXCERPT from Debix, The Identity Protection Network

## City Committees

### Recreation Board

Kevin Tanski  
Rocky Neale  
Diane Esper  
Al Sforzo  
Allison Rafter

### Domestic Abuse Commission

Colleen Gallagher  
Bonnie Bartczak  
Helen Wilson  
Ruth Ann Scarbro  
Robin Lawrence

### Civil Service Commission

Dan Enovitch, Commissioner  
Sonia Brown  
Deborah Gamble

### Planning Commission

Mayor Albrier  
Tom Ockington  
John Patta  
Joe Polidori  
Ray Porterfield  
James Oper

### Zoning Board of Appeals

Regis Barrett, Chairman  
Jeanne Hartman  
Robert Kinney  
Walter Parker  
Dean Bredenbeck



### Charter Review Commission

Tom Adamski	Marcia Balina	Earl Bloam	Mary Lee Bowen
Greg Frey	Sue Grodek	Barb Paulitzky	Paula Ritter      Ron Tumino

## Calendar of Events...

### February 2011



- Feb 1** First Day for Non-Resident Park Permits Requests. Call 216-351-5334 between 8:30-10:30am. Blood Pressure Checks at Fire Station M-F 8:30-4:00. Zumba 7pm Senior Center
- Feb 2** Groundhog Day. No parking on city streets thru April 1 2am-7am. AARP Income Tax 9:00am-noon Senior Center.
- Feb 3** Planning Commission 6pm Mayor's Court. Zumba 7pm Senior Center
- Feb 4** The Police Dept will conduct free Home Safety Surveys call 216-749-1234 to make an appt.
- Feb 5** Taste of Brooklyn and All that Jazz Scholarship Benefit 7pm @ Ridge Manor Party Center
- Feb 6** If your smoke detector does not work, you do not have one, or your is over 10 years old and you are a homeowner, stop by the fire station to receive a free one.
- Feb 7** Brooklyn Animal Shelter 6:30pm Fire Station. AARP Income Tax 9:00am-Noon Senior Center. Weight Watchers 6pm Senior Center
- Feb 8** Zumba 7pm Senior Center
- Feb 9** AARP Income Tax 9:00am-Noon Senior Center. VFW 7727 Mtg 7pm Fire Station
- Feb 10** Blood pressure checks at the Senior Center from 10am-11:30am. Chamber of Commerce Luncheon Noon @ Carrabba's. Zumba 7pm Senior Center.
- Feb 11** Child Car Seat Installations M-F 9-3pm and Sat 10-2pm Call 216-749-1212 to make an appt.
- Feb 12** Lincoln's Birthday
- Feb 14** Valentine's Day. Finance Mtg 6:30pm City Council Mtg 7pm. Weight Watchers 6pm Senior Center. AARP Income Tax 9:00-Noon Senior Center
- Feb 15** Board of Education Mtg 6:30pm. Zumba 7pm Senior Center
- Feb 16** AARP Income Tax 9:00-Noon Senior Center
- Feb 17** Valentine's Luncheon and Dance 11:30am Senior Center. Zoning Board of Appeals Mtg 7pm Mayor's Court. Zumba 7pm Senior Center.
- Feb 18** Democratic Club Mtg 7pm Senior Center. No School
- Feb 21** President's Day. City Buildings Closed. Recreation Center Closed except for Hockey games. Weight Watchers 6pm Senior Center. Rubbish pick-up one day late.
- Feb 22** Washington's Birthday. Zumba 7pm Senior Center.
- Feb 23** AARP Income tax 9:00-Noon Senior Center.
- Feb 24** Blood Pressure Checks at the Senior Center from 10-11:30am. Zumba 7pm Senior Center.
- Feb 27** Learn to Skate Registration Recreation Center 11:00am-1:00pm
- Feb 28** Finance Mtg 6:30pm. City Council Mtg 7pm. Weight Watchers 6pm Senior Center. AARP 9-Noon Senior Center